

**Speech by Mayor Logan Howlett**  
**Harmony Week School Presentation**  
**City of Cockburn Function Room,**  
**20 March, 2025**

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Kaya everyone.

Welcome to today's Harmony Week School presentation and thank you for the nominations received for awarding at this ceremony..

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today; and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to First Nation peoples that are here today.

I acknowledge:

My wife Patricia;

Elected members present;

Mr Daniel Simms, Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn, other members of the Executive and staff who have worked tirelessly to strengthen inclusivity in our community.

Members of the City's Multicultural Reference Group;

The Award nominees and representatives from the school's in the Fremantle Education District.

It's a pleasure to be here with you all to celebrate Harmony Week.

This is a time to reflect on the incredible diversity that makes the City of Cockburn such a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

Cockburn is home to people from over 150 different cultural backgrounds, and one in every two residents comes from a culturally diverse background.

With a population of over 130,000 people and growing many people and families are attracted to live, work, and recreate in our great City.

This diversity is our strength, and it's something we celebrate — not just during Harmony Week, but every day.

But a truly inclusive community doesn't just happen on its own — it's built by people.

That's why today, we are here to recognise the young leaders in our schools who have gone above and beyond to create a welcoming environment for their classmates.

I thank all of the schools that have participated by nominating students.

By recognising and uplifting these young leaders, you are helping to create a culture of inclusivity that extends far beyond the classroom.

Each of you receiving a certificate today has contributed to making your school a place where everyone feels they belong.

Whether through acts of kindness, cultural projects, peer support, or simply by leading with empathy and understanding.

Your efforts may feel small in the moment, but they have a lasting impact.

Inclusivity doesn't just change schools — it changes communities.

By setting an example of respect, understanding, and friendship, you are helping to shape a future where everyone, no matter their background, feels valued and accepted.

As a City, we are proud to support events like this because we know that young leaders like you are the foundation of a strong, connected, and inclusive Cockburn.

So today, we celebrate your efforts, and I encourage you to keep being leaders, keep welcoming others, and keep showing that diversity is something to embrace.

It is now my honour to present these certificates in recognition of your contributions.

Congratulations, and thank you.